

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

OMB-01 IO-11 SY-05 /077 W

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R 091445Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9986

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CONFIDENTIAL PRAGUE 0956

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINR CSCE CZ

SUBJECT: GETTING READY FOR THE XVTH PARTY CONGRESS: ARRESTS

REF: PRAGUE 914

1. IN A TESTY APRIL 8 ARTICLE (POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT) RUDE PRAVO TOOK AIM AT THE TIRELESS AND SLANDEROUS WESTERN NEWS MEDIA WHICH REPORTED THE ARREST OF SOME TWENTY OPPPOSITION ARTISTS, THEREBY GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT CZECHOSLOVAK CULTURE IS REIGNED BY UNBRIDLED TERROR. THE ARTICLE ADMITTED FREELY THAT "SEVERAL YOUNG PEOPLE" BELONGING TO ROCK GROUPS CALLED THE "PLASTIC SPACEMEN" AND "DG 307" HAD BEEN DETAINED OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS FOR DISTURBING PEACE.

2. HOWEVER, AT ISSUE WAS NOT THE ARRESTS (ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT THOSE APPREHENDED WOULD HAVE BEEN ARRESTED ALSO IN THE WEST) BUT WHETHER THOSE ARRESTED WERE INDEED ARTISTS. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, MEMBERS OF THESE GROUPS ARE SHIFTLESS, EVEN CRIMINAL TYPES WHO HAVE BAD AND INCITING EFFECT ON YOUTH. AS FOR THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

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MUSIC, MAYBE THE WEST REGARDED AS ART A SOLO PLAYED ON A

CABINET MAKER'S PLANE OR BY BASHING CYMBALS LINKED WITH A BRUSSIÈRE, BUT "WE DON'T CARE FOR IT IN THIS COUNTRY." ARTICLE CONCLUDED THAT THE WEST CAN FORGET ITS CONCERN BECAUSE NO ATTACKS ARE BEING LAUNCHED AGAINST THE REAL ARTISTS AND WORKERS ON THE BROAD CULTURAL FRONT.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER REPORTS OF ARRESTS HAVE APPEARED IN WESTERN PRESS. ATTACH OF ARTICLE COULD CONCEIVABLE BE AIMED AT WESTERN JOURNALISTS HERE (LIKE REQUETTE OF REUTERS) WHO PRESUMABLY FILED THE STORY.

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Message Attributes

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